

2004 Fishing Lottery Results

The Valles Caldera National Preserve first opened for public fishing in 2003 on a first-come, first-served reservation basis. Our Web site was deluged with reservation requests and many anglers were disappointed not to get a reservation. In 2004, in consultation with anglers, we created a fishing lottery to help better manage the reservation process and help raise funds for the preserve.

The new lottery system has worked well so far. We created three fishing seasons – spring, summer and fall – and expanded the number of fishing days to five days a week. Each season offered 28 fishing days with 10 slots per day, or 280 fishing slots per season. These slots were offered so that each registrant could bring a guest, up to four per party. The charge for each lottery ticket is \$5. Anglers also pay a \$25 access fee per angler to fish the preserve.

The good news is that for the first two seasons this year, nearly all anglers who purchased a lottery ticket were able to come to the preserve to fish. Those who were not drawn for the date they selected were called by our staff and offered an alternate day (as not all days were equally popular among anglers). Most were able to take us up on our offer. As a result, we managed to fill out most slots and offer a day of fishing to nearly all anglers who purchased at least one lottery ticket.

The final season of the fall saw more pressure, with more anglers applying for a fishing slot.

Lottery Statistics

	Entrants	Tickets Purchased	Revenues
Spring Season	308	1368	\$6,840
Summer Season	303	1188	\$5,940
Fall Season	379	1693	\$8,465
Totals	990	4249	\$21,245

For all three seasons, anglers purchased an average of 4.3 tickets per person. We've gotten overwhelming support for the lottery system and it has helped raise funds for the preserve and its activities. Our staff made extra efforts to work with individual anglers to accommodate their requests wherever we could. We have had a problem contacting individuals who did not provide phone numbers or gave us an incorrect number. So, please help us by ensuring the contact information is accurate and complete.

Thank you, anglers, for your support of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Your enjoyment of this special property is what really matters to us. We want you to continue to enjoy the special experience you can have fishing on the preserve.

If you have any comments, please contact Dennis Trujillo, Preserve Manager at info@vallescaldera.gov.